



**CFEC, APA and AWC Statement of Support for H.B. 4561  
Senate Regulatory Reform Committee  
April 26, 2012**

The Coalition for Fair Energy Codes (CFEC), the American Wood Council (AWC) and APA-The Engineered Wood Association (APA) appreciate the opportunity to express our support for H.B. 4561, which makes several changes to the Single State Construction Code Act. Among other changes, the bill would revise the process for adoption of the state's energy code, including removing a requirement that the most current version of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) be adopted by the state on a three year cycle, thereby allowing the state flexibility to make updates to the energy code and other construction codes as needed. **We ask that you vote "YES" on H.B. 4561.**

CFEC is a group of building product manufacturers and associations, including AWC and APA, the home building industry, and other parties who support energy code adoptions that provide design flexibility without compromising performance. In Michigan, the wood products industry employs over 13,000 individuals with an annual payroll of \$433 million.

The members of CFEC are committed to reducing the environmental impact of buildings by encouraging energy efficient, environmentally responsible choices during the design and building process. However, we have concerns with the next edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), the principle energy code used in the Michigan Uniform Energy Code. While the 2012 IECC requirements increased energy efficiency in new homes and commercial buildings, the approved measures were written to give preferential treatment to one product -- foam wall sheathing -- despite the existence of wood and other structural products and systems capable of providing equivalent thermal performance. These preferences threaten Michigan with lost manufacturing jobs, and negative consequences to its local wood product manufacturing economies.

You have been contacted by a number of chemical manufacturers who oppose H.B. 4561. These are the same manufacturers who will gain a competitive advantage because the next edition of the energy code gives preferential treatment to their products. We share the goal of increasing energy efficiency, and wood products can help Michigan achieve that goal.

Michigan's construction code, including the energy code provisions, does not prevent improved performance or new and innovative materials. The Michigan Code is a minimum code, and designers and owners will continue to be free to exceed the minimum performance requirements if you vote "Yes" on H.B. 4561.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Callahan, AWC Manager of Government Affairs at [kcallahan@awc.org](mailto:kcallahan@awc.org).